FEES UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT LAW.

A letter has been received from a distinguished member of the Society in Southern California, asking the JOURNAL to publish some facts in regard to the Industrial Accident Law and the relation of the physician to it, and its provisions in the matter of fees. Many inquiries come in from time to time on different points directly connected with this, and therefore the following facts are set forth for your information and guidance:

The law makes it the duty of the employer to furnish medical and surgical attention to an injured employee, and therefore it further permits the employer to hire any physician or surgeon he chooses. The injured employee has nothing whatever to say in regard to what physician shall attend him. If the employer has transferred his personal risk to another by taking out insurance, the insurance company is then substituted for the employer in the matter of providing medical and surgical attention. In other words, the insurance company says what doctor shall treat the injured employee. If an employee is injured and goes to some physician of his own volition and choosing, the employer, or the insurance company, cannot be compelled to pay that physician for anything more than the emergency treatment required by the necessities of the case. In every instance where an injured employee goes to you for professional services, you should find out from him immediately the name of his employer and notify such employer, and also find out from the employer whether he is insured and if so notify the insurance company and receive their authorization to treat the patient. Quite a number of complaints have come in that members, after having treated injured persons for a longer or shorter period, have been notified by the insurance company that as the treatment was unauthorized, the company would not be responsible for the bill.

The Industrial Accident Commission has a limited jurisdiction over matters of dispute arising in connection with fees, but its jurisdiction does not in any degree extend to any case where the parties involved have not complied with the law. If you do not notify the employer or the insurance company and get the consent of such employer or such company, you have not complied with the law and you do not come within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Complaint has also reached us that there is a degree of uncertainty owing to the fact that the Commission has changed its ruling from time to time. This is perfectly true and must necessarily be true, if we stop to think that the whole matter is new and that everyone is without experience in connection with it. Furthermore, under the Roseberry Act, and under the Act of 1913, and up to August 1, 1915, the Commission had no jurisdiction whatever in the matter of fees.

There are a certain number of cases that come to our attention where the doctor complains that the insurance company is not willing to pay him as much as he thinks his services are worth. As a result of experience, we find that in practically every one of these cases, the physician has not fully explained the circumstances to the company. For instance, if an examination has taken a very much longer period than would ordinarily be the case, or if what would be generally a simple matter is for some reason a complicated one requiring more time, more work, etc., if these matters are explained to the company, they are nearly always willing to pay reasonable bills.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

The following item on the subject of poliomyelitis is issued by the State Board of Health, and is without apology given in connection with this editorial note. Elsewhere in the JOURNAL will be found an outline of an article published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on the same subject.

Every effort to prevent the introduction of infantile paralysis into California is being exerted by the California State Board of Health. In order to learn if any cases or contacts are being brought into the state from the east, where the disease is now epidemic, inspectors of all transcontinental passenger trains have been stationed at points along the border lines where the railroads enter California. Without the co-operation of citizens, however, this procedure is of small importance.

Every suspected case of illness in children, particularly intestinal or digestive disturbances, should be reported immediately to the local health officer for investigation. Children should not be allowed to come into contact with such persons, who are ill, whether they are children or adults.

The diagnosis of infantile paralysis is oftentimes not determined until the paralysis appears. Since many cases begin with the acute digestive or intestinal disturbances, followed by high fever, special attention should be paid to disorders of this sort.

While comparatively few cases of the disease have occurred in California during the past few years, several epidemics of magnitude have occurred in the state. At the beginning of July there were only four cases in California and these were widely scattered.

The California State Board of Health does not feel that there is any occasion for alarm, but it desires to emphasize the importance of taking every possible preventive measure that may be available, in order that California may not be visited with a devastating epidemic of the disease.

ETIOLOGY OF OZENA.

The contribution of Horn and Victors to the etiology of Ozena presented at the last meeting of the State Society, can not, on account of its length, be published in full in this JOURNAL. The work of previous investigators was restudied and certain new facts were brought out by them which seem to substantiate the claim of Perez that the *Coccobacillus foetidus ozenae* is the cause